

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 18-37 of the present application are pending. Claims 18-20, 22, 26, 28, 33, and 35-37 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over United States Pat. Nos. 6,471,667 and 6,394,975, both issued to Epstein. In response, the Applicant has filed concurrent herewith a terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c). As such, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 18-20, 22, 26, 28, 33, and 35-37 are in condition for allowance and allowance is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action dated November 5, 2003, the Examiner objected to claims 21, 23-25, 27, 29-32, and 34 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, the Applicant has amended claims 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, and 34 and submits that all the claims in the present application are in condition for allowance. The Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

If it is felt for any reason that direct communication with applicants' attorney would serve to advance prosecution of this case to finality, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the below listed telephone number.

Appl. No.: 10/072,509
Amdt dated:
Reply to Office Action of 11/5/2003

Patent
14363-0053

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee which may be required in connection with this Amendment to deposit account No. 50-1329.

Respectfully submitted,

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